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## Shoes with Sole: Ethiopian Web Success Story

Ethiopia's bustling capital, Addis Ababa, is experiencing a building and business boom. Foreign investors and Ethiopia's entrepreneurial and widespread global diaspora are investing again in the country. But Ethiopia still relies for most of its foreign currency wealth on exports of unprocessed coffee beans and leather hides -- a model that leaves the bulk of the profits made outside of Ethiopia.

But one shoe company provides an example of a home-grown business that is finding success in the international marketplace, while repatriating most of the profits for its goods back to Ethiopia, creating jobs and local wealth.

Ethiopia's economy is mostly dependent on agriculture, which accounts for 60 percent of exports and 80 percent of employment (CIA World Factbook). The country has a tiny private sector and high youth unemployment. It is difficult to find funding for small businesses. Yet, because of the high population growth, the country needs to create more jobs.

The Economist magazine has forecast Ethiopia's economy will grow by 7 percent in 2010, becoming the fifth fastest growing economy in the world, and on course to surpass Kenya to become East Africa's biggest economy. While this sounds impressive, the country has to run hard to create enough jobs to meet its growing population and still faces significant food security problems.

One company, soleRebels, is combining a clever twist on a local tradition – recycling rubber from old truck tires into shoes, locally known as selate shoes – with sophisticated design concepts and high quality craftsmanship to make a global footwear hit.

Co-founder and managing director Bethlehem Tilahun Alemu, a 30-year-old African web-vending entrepreneur, has turned this local craft into a global fashion design hit by adding colourful cotton and leather uppers to the tire shoes. The recycled rubber shoes come in many styles: from handmade flip-flops to boat shoes, loafers, and athletic trainers resembling the popular American sports shoe, Converse (<http://www.converse.com/>). SoleRebels' (<http://solerebelsfootwear.weebly.com/index.html>) shoe factory is on the outskirts of Addis Ababa in the historic village of Zenabework. Despite its location, it is reaching the international markets through online retailers like Amazon.com. Shipments take between three and five days to arrive in the United States.

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And the secret to this small start-up's success? Apart from great shoes and funky design, Alemu puts it down to this: "We are sitting in Addis Ababa but acting like an American company," she told The Guardian newspaper. It doesn't hurt that Alemu is also money-smart: she is a former accountant.

Started five years ago, soleRebels now employs 45 full-time staff making 500 pairs of shoes a day. The shoes cost between US \$33 and US \$64. They are also being sold in Japan and the United Kingdom on Amazon's shoe-selling website, [www.javari.co.uk](http://www.javari.co.uk).

In 2010, Alemu hopes soleRebels will make US \$481,000. But soleRebels has an even more ambitious goal: to become "the Timberland or Sketchers of Africa."

Timberland (<http://www.timberland.com/home/index.jsp>), an American shoe and boot maker, has been a pioneer in high-quality leather footwear, breaking new ground in adopting green manufacturing processes and exploiting the power of the web by allowing customers to customise their footwear.

SoleRebels has cleverly exploited the advantages of the global marketplace to grow its customers and profits. The business has done this with just one leg-up: a line of credit from the government to help with large orders. With 6.2 million people out of a population of 80 million needing food aid, Ethiopia is still highly dependent on international aid. But Alemu is showing there is a way to build a sustainable successful business.

Inspiration for Alemu came about when she was thinking what Ethiopian product could be produced in a sustainable way. She remembered the sandals worn in the country. "Recycling is a way of life here – you don't throw things away that you can use again and again," she said. "I wanted to build on that idea."

Ethiopian shoe makers have had a difficult time in recent years, trying to compete with cheaper Chinese imports. But rather than just trying to come up with a shoe that was even cheaper than the Chinese ones, soleRebels decided to build a business selling shoes to the more lucrative export market.

Alemu reasoned that good design would attract a higher price. She did research on the internet to find out which designs worked well and what were the latest trends in footwear.

This research formed the basis of her range of shoes, which have catchy names like Class Act or Gruuv Thong. The sandals and flip-flops are either cotton-covered or leather covered. The Urban Runner shoe sells best and is inspired by the Converse All Star sneaker.

SoleRebels has a regular supplier of old truck tires and inner tubes and has women weave and dye the cotton, jute and hemp uppers for the shoes. Almost all materials are locally sourced. Old army uniforms are cannibalized for their camouflage pattern.

SoleRebels has also been canny in seeking Fair Trade certification (<http://www.fairtrade.org.uk>) to help with

marketing and selling the shoes.

To increase the market for the shoes, Alemu bombarded American retailers with emails and shoe samples to pique their interest. Because of the U.S. African Growth and Opportunity Act (<http://www.agoa.gov>), soleRebels' shoes can be imported into the United States duty-free: a big price advantage in the U.S. marketplace which has helped grab the interest of retailers like Whole Foods and Urban Outfitters.

This interest soon snowballed, and people were placing orders through the soleRebels website (<http://solerebelsfootwear.weebly.com/index.html>). Orders come by courier from Ethiopia in about a week to the United States.

With all this interest building, Amazon, the leviathan online retailer, decided to become a customer for the shoes. Online retailing has been a huge boost to the growth of soleRebels. According to Alemu, it has enabled the company "to understand the market needs and demands in real time" -- a huge advantage to a start-up company far away from its markets.

There is another advantage to using the web to grow a business: it has enabled soleRebels to take greater control of the whole process. The company negotiates directly with retailers, handling orders and credit collection, and this makes sure most of the profits of the business return to Ethiopia.

Making soleRebels quickly profitable has been a benefit to its workers. Starters at the company make US \$1.92 a day, while experienced shoe-makers earn US \$11 a day (a good wage in Ethiopia).

"In Ethiopia we have become used to taking money from the West, to always getting help," Alemu told the Guardian. "That does not make for a sustainable economy. We need to solve our own problems." And what does success enable them to do? SoleRebels are now building a solar-powered factory to replace their current workshop. And there is a steely pride in the firm's success: "People buy soleRebels because they are good, not just because they are green or from Ethiopia," Alemu said. "Our product speaks for itself."

## Links

- The online service CafePress is a specially designed one-stop shop that lets entrepreneurs upload their designs, and then sell them via their online payment and worldwide shipping service

Website: <http://www.cafepress.com/cp/info/sell/>

- Once inspired to get into the global fashion business, check out this business website for all the latest news, jobs and events.

Website: <http://us.fashionmag.com/news/index.php>

- iFashion: This web portal run from South Africa has all the latest business news on fashion in Africa and profiles of up-and-coming designers.

Website: <http://www.ifashion.co.za/index.php?>

[option=com\\_frontpage&Itemid=1](#)

- The red dot logo stands for belonging to the best in design and business. The red dot is an internationally recognised quality label for excellent design that is aimed at all those who would like to improve their business activities with the help of design.  
**Website:** [www.red-dot.de](http://www.red-dot.de)
- Dutch Design in Development: As a matchmaker, DDiD puts together European clients, Dutch designers and small and medium-sized enterprises in developing countries. The designers share their knowledge of European consumer tastes, product development, design and quality standards  
**Website:** [www.ddid.nl](http://www.ddid.nl)
- ShopAfrica53: Pledging in its motto to reach "every African nook and cranny," ShopAfrica53 is an online shopping portal similar to famous brands like Amazon or eBay, but focused entirely on giving African traders the ability to sell across the continent and to the world online. Website: <http://www.shopafrica53.com/>  
**Website:** [http://www.unctad.org/en/docs/ditc20082cer\\_en.pdf](http://www.unctad.org/en/docs/ditc20082cer_en.pdf)
- Havaianas: A Brazilian global fashion success with its rubber flip flops. Website: <http://www.havaianas.com/>  
**Website:** <http://www.havaianas.com/>

## Cool Food for the Poor

A whole wave of high-tech, innovative products are now being developed and marketed for the world's poor. These products are designed to raise the quality of life of poor people and treat them as a market with real needs, rather than a mass of people to be ignored.

One of the major challenges of the 21st century is finding ways to make these products affordable for the poor – bringing significant development gains in health and quality of life - without increasing the burden on the world's environment. In India, this vast new market is rapidly coming alive, with new marketing channels reaching deep into the country's slums and aided by a lively media scene turning people on to new products.

India is turning its large number of well-trained engineers and product designers to the task of making relevant products for the country's millions of rural poor.

An Indian refrigerator – the ChotuKool fridge

(<http://www.new.godrej.com/godrej/godrej/index.aspx?id=1>) – is designed to stay cool for hours without electricity and to use half the power of conventional refrigerators. Priced at US \$69, it is targeted at India's poor – a population of over 456 million, almost half the total Indian population (World Bank).

Manufactured by Godrej and Boyce and weighing just 7.8 kilograms, it is designed around the stated needs of the poor, who wanted a fridge capable of cooling 5 to 6 bottles of water and 3 to 4 kilograms of vegetables. Portability was crucial as well, since it needed to be moved when large family gatherings take place in small rooms.

As a video shows (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dtCRllynp0bM>), the fridge looks more like a drinks cooler than the typical large refrigerator. It works by replacing the standard compressor motor found in most fridges with a battery-

powered heat exchanger.

A group of village women was involved in the design process from the beginning. The fridges are being distributed by a microfinance group.

While people in developed countries take it for granted they will have both a refrigerator and a steady supply of electricity, the world's poor have few options for keeping food cool.

There is a strong economic advantage to refrigeration: many farmers have to throw away vegetables or sell at high discounts because they are quickly spoiling in the heat. By refrigerating, they can keep them fresh and get the higher price. For somebody living on less than US \$2 a day, this is a big economic boost.

Keeping food cool also comes with health advantages: it slows bacterial (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bacteria>) growth, which happens at temperatures between 4.4 degrees Celsius and 60 degrees Celsius. This is called 'the danger zone', when some bacteria double in just 20 minutes. But when a refrigerator is set below 4 degrees Celsius, most foods will be protected from bacteria growth (USDA).

Through refrigeration, the poor not only can avoid food poisoning, but also benefit from better quality foods, more dietary variety, and better take advantage of buying and storing food when prices are lower. For example, eggs in a refrigerator can last for up to five weeks. Fresh fish can be stored unfrozen for up to two days.

The quality of life improvements from refrigeration are obvious. But with conventional refrigerators costly and dependent on a steady supply of electricity, the poor will not buy them.

An Indian government survey in 2007/08 found daily pay in rural areas ranged from 45 rupees a day (US \$1) to 110 rupees a day (US \$2.40). This means the ChotuKool fridge costs between one and two month's wages for a rural worker.

Some argue even the cost of the ChotuKool is still too prohibitive to many poor people. And there are other initiatives out there to offer low-tech solutions to cooling food.

In Nigeria, grassroots inventor Mohammed Bah Abba has designed a cooler called the Zeer (<http://practicalaction.org/?id=zeerpots>). It works like this: two ceramic earthenware pots of different sizes are arranged one inside the other. The space between the pots is filled with wet sand and kept moist. The user then places their drinks or vegetables inside and covers with a damp cloth. As the water from the moist sand evaporates (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Evaporation>), the air inside the centre pot is cooled several degrees, enough to preserve some foods and drinks.

Another Indian innovation is also targeting the rural poor consumer: a water filter. Called the Swach water purifier (<http://www.tata.com/article.aspx?artid=TtOdcdNuSRk=>), it is aimed at households and stands just less than 1 metre (just over 3 feet) in height. The filter is designed to do bulk water purification and is the result of 10 years' research. It is aimed at the one billion people in the world who do not have access to clean water. It will sell for 1,000 rupees (US \$21.50).

It is very slick and modern in design, with a mix of white and clear plastic, resembling the commonly used Brita (<http://www.brita.net/>) water filters found in many homes. It works by using ash from rice milling to filter out bacteria. The ash is impregnated with silver particles to kill germs that cause diarrhoea, cholera and typhoid. It is able to purify 3,000 litres of water before the cartridge needs to be replaced.

It is manufactured by the Indian industrial giant Tata.



"It was the pressing need of people trapped by the effects of natural disasters such as the (2004 Indian Ocean) tsunami that saw the deployment of one of the earliest versions of this product," said Tata vice chairman S. Ramadorai. "A key part was the insight that a natural material like rice husk can be processed to significantly reduce water-borne germs and odours when impure water is passed through it."

## Links

- Indian Firms Shift Focus to the Poor: An article in the Wall Street Journal on this new trend. Website:  
Website: <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB125598988906795035.html?mod=relevancy>
- Zero Mass Foundation: No-frills banking specially aimed at India's rural village poor.  
Website: <http://www.zero-mass.org/>
- iNext Billion: Development Through Enterprise catalyzes sustainable economic growth by identifying market opportunities and business models that meet the needs of underserved communities in emerging economies. Website:  
Website: <http://www.wri.org/project/nextbillion>
- Arise Africa Fashion Week: The place to be seen and to see.  
Website: <http://www.africanfashioninternational.com/africaFashionWeek/>

## **Innovation: Cairo's Green Technology Pioneers**

One thing is ubiquitous to every country, community and society: garbage. It's a social and environmental problem, but far from being mere waste, rubbish has its uses. This by-product of the goods and foods consumed can also be a source of fuel. As such it has many advantages, including providing free fuel to cash-strapped households, independence from unreliable municipal services and a way to dispose of waste.

An enterprising Egyptian man is showing his community how it is possible to lower the cost of gas and hot water while also avoiding the service disruptions common with municipal utilities. In the process, he is pioneering a local green innovation model that can be replicated elsewhere.

Biogas (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biogas>) generators -- which can transform organic household waste into fuel -- have been very successful in India and China. It is estimated there are 20 million small-scale urban biogas digesters in China and 2 million in India.

Hanna Fathy's roof in the Manshiyet Nasser neighbourhood, home to the Coptic Christian Zabaleen community of Cairo -- the city's traditional garbage collectors and recyclers -- is now a utility system, providing biogas and hot water.

The area is made of narrow streets and makeshift houses. Residents live cheek-by-jowl in a neighbourhood that is home to tens of thousands of people.

The community was badly hit when the 300,000 pigs the Christian residents have kept for the past 30 years to eat Cairo's vegetative waste -- an effective garbage-disposal system -- were slaughtered under government orders to prevent the spread of swine flu (H1N1) ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Swine\\_influenza](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Swine_influenza)).

One woman told U.S. National Public Radio about the hard life in the

neighbourhood: "I'm working all the time. My hands get dirty, there's no water. The price of food is too high. The gas has gone up to seven pounds (US \$1.28) a bottle, so it's expensive to heat.

"Everything is so expensive, and I have to live like this?" she said.

Fathy plops kitchen scraps, stale tea and tap water into a jug which he pours into a homemade biogas maker on the roof of his house. The stew of waste mixes with water and a small quantity of animal manure used to start the process, and overnight makes biogas, which is then used for cooking. The digester is able to provide an hour's worth of cooking gas a day in winter months, and two hours in the summer, from around two kilograms of waste. The remaining waste by product becomes liquid organic fertilizer for the garden.

Fathy has been developing the biogas digester with the NGO Solar Cities (<http://solarcities.blogspot.com>), which provides designs, technical advice and support to Cairo citizens keen to embrace green technologies.

What is interesting is not only the technology but how that technology is being developed. The approach is to innovate and adapt the technology to local resources and skills. This increases the chances of take-up and buy-in.

The designs for the digesters and heaters have evolved through experimentation, brainstorming and availability of local materials.

Each biogas system costs about US \$150 for materials, a cost that is being picked up right now by donations. Solar Cities believes there are only eight biogas digesters in Egypt so far, most built in 2009.

Solar Cities' founder, Thomas Culhane, points out many urban dwellers do not believe they can generate biogas and associate it with rural systems that use animal manure. But the abundance of urban kitchen waste is in fact an excellent source material for biogas.

Culhane believes the biogas digesters are an excellent solution to two problems: the vast quantities of garbage piling up in Cairo, which has had its traditional disposal system disrupted by the slaughter of the pigs, and the city's emissions of greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change.

Fathy has one goal: to be completely self-sufficient. He has been also prototyping a solar heater on his roof as well as the biogas digester. The solar water heater makes use of items that can be easily found: it recycles black garbage bags, has an aluminium frame and a glass cover. The whole thing rests on a Styrofoam block and uses copper tubes. The water is stored in a bright blue barrel.

Biogas, solar power and other forms of green energy face many obstacles if it is to expand further in Egypt. The average cost of each unit will need to come down to match the income of the users and compete with the government-subsidized energy sector.

Fathy has also found neighbours are skeptical and can't believe biogas can be made this way.

Another man, Hussain Soliman, had both a solar water heater and biogas digester on the roof of his apartment building before the crumbling building collapsed.

The complete solar water heating system designed by Solar Cities can be assembled for under US \$500. It uses two 200-litre recycled industrial shampoo barrels for the holding tank and back-up water supply. The solar panels need to be kept clean from dust every week, but other than that, Culhane insists the heaters require little maintenance.

Now in temporary government housing, Soliman is still enthusiastic about the technology and is re-building a solar heater and biogas digester for his new

home.

"I'm planning to collect the organic waste from restaurants in the neighborhood to increase my gas output," he told IPS News. "I'll give the restaurants plastic bags and they can separate out the organics, and I'll collect the bags at the end of each day."

## Links

- Practical Action has technical drawings and guidelines for making a small biogas digester.  
Website: [http://practicalaction.org/practicalanswers/product\\_info.php?products\\_id=42](http://practicalaction.org/practicalanswers/product_info.php?products_id=42)
- The Anaerobic Digestion Community: Here is an excellent technical explanation of how a digester works, including a short film.  
Website: <http://www.anaerobic-digestion.com/>
- China boasts a fast-growing biogas economy using farm waste. Here is a full summary of their experience.  
Website: <http://www.i-sis.org.uk/BiogasChina.php>.

## Many Positive Trends for Africa in 2010

While 2009 saw the global economic crisis spread around the world, the story is more complex and more hopeful than many believe. For Africa, various trends are pointing to positive economic development in 2010, despite the continent's numerous political, social and environmental challenges. Pragmatism is driving stronger economic ties between Africa and the rest of the world, while long-running trends are delivering opportunity to millions despite setbacks.

The Standard Chartered bank (<http://research.standardchartered.com/Pages/home.aspx>) believes sub-Saharan Africa will jolt itself out from the 1 percent growth it had in 2009, to reach 4.7 percent growth in 2010 and 5.7 percent in 2011 (<http://research.standardchartered.com/researchdocuments/Pages/ResearchArticle.aspx?&R=66952>). The reason? The world's strong appetite for commodities and food, which will continue to draw in business. And much of this business will be done by that powerhouse of the global South, China.

The fact that China is trading better infrastructure – roads, rail and ports – for commodities means other businesses can also benefit from the improving environment. Throughout the downturn in 2009, China actually increased its investments in Africa.

The United States is also trying to increase its economic relationship with Africa. It wants a third of its oil imports to come from West Africa by 2015.

And the competition for food in the world, as countries address the global food crisis, has seen companies from the Middle East to Asia to Britain purchasing land in Africa to grow more food.

The Annansi Chronicles blog on African business and culture trends ([www.annansi.com](http://www.annansi.com)) has come up with a list of the big trends to watch out for on the continent in 2010. They build upon many of the patterns that have emerged in the past few years in Africa.

The blog predicts that Africa will increasingly be an innovation incubator. Concepts like the bottom of the pyramid – where the poor are seen as an unserved marketplace of needs – will draw more private companies in to innovate new products and services. Already, products and services trialled in Africa are then launched in other places in the world. One example has been mobile phone banking. The blog sees the challenge for Africa as finding ways to increase innovation and harness its economic benefits within the continent, and to



direct resources to the African pioneers out there who need money and infrastructure support to grow their ideas.

Mobile phones will continue to be the source of opportunity in Africa in 2010. Get ready for more businesses to take advantage of the move from analog to digital in Africa, as fibre optic cables continue to expand. Just as the introduction of broadband internet in developed countries gave birth to new businesses like You Tube ([www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com)), so it will create new opportunities in Africa. The key to growing the prosperity from this is to see governments and the private sector better connect with African technology pioneers, as can be found in hot spot countries like Ghana.

Along with technology comes content. And the people to make the content interesting and attractive will be Africa's so-called 'creative class': savvy young African entrepreneurs and thinkers. They have drawn on the rising urbanization of the continent and greater international travel to explore new ways of representing African culture. This has come forward in the explosion in media, fashion, music and design. The blog believes the 2010 FIFA World Cup in South Africa (<http://www.fifa.com/worldcup>) is going to thrust the world's attention on to Africa's creative class: a global media burst that will be an opportunity not to be missed.

And this will also challenge global perceptions of "brand Africa." Already, the world's tourists flow to Africa in greater numbers, defying decades of negative media publicity. Brand Africa will be up for grabs in 2010.

And finally, while China has been the big story in terms of economic investment in Africa, India will start to make more moves to catch up by flexing its information technology muscles. Look for more joint partnerships between African countries and Indian technology companies.

In short, Africa has as many positive trends for 2010 as negative ones. It is just a matter of focusing on the good so the negative will not have a fighting chance in 2010.

## Links

- Design Indaba: See the latest on the catwalks in all-day fashion shows; attend short films, talks and product launches; be enticed to buy from more than 260 exhibitors and hobnob with the designers in person. Above all, be awed by the creative spirit of innovative South Africans.  
Website: [www.mobileactive.org](http://www.mobileactive.org)
- Maker Faire Africa: African pioneers in grassroots innovation offer inspiring inventions.  
Website: <http://makerfaireafrica.com/>
- Arise Africa Fashion Week: The place to be seen and to see.  
Website: <http://www.africanfashioninternational.com/africaFashionWeek/>

## **Window on the World**

### **World Economic Situation and Prospects 2010: Global Outlook**

- **Publisher:** UNCTAD

Website: [http://www.unctad.org/en/docs/wesp2010pr\\_en.pdf](http://www.unctad.org/en/docs/wesp2010pr_en.pdf)

### **Africa's Biocarbon Experience: Lessons for Improving Performance in the African Carbon Markets**

*Publisher:* World Agroforestry Centre

Carbon stored in trees, soils, vegetation and leaf litter offers greater promise for African countries to participate in global carbon markets. However, compared to other regions, Africa has made little progress in benefiting from such opportunities.

Website: <http://worldagroforestry.org/downloads/publications/PDFs/africa-biocarbon-experience.pdf>

## **Trees on Farms: Tackling the Triple Challenge of Mitigation, Adaptation and Food Security**

*Publisher: World Agroforestry Centre*

Trees on farms store carbon, buffering against climate-related impacts and providing additional income for smallholders through tree-based products.

**Website:** <http://worldagroforestry.org/downloads/publications/PDFs/mitigation-adaptation-food-security.pdf>

## **Social media, complexity science and an age-old information challenge for aid agencies How aid agencies are failing to embrace the new social media.**

**Website:**

[http://www.oecd.org/document/56/0,3343,en\\_2649\\_34665\\_4283506437413,00.html](http://www.oecd.org/document/56/0,3343,en_2649_34665_4283506437413,00.html)

## **Latin American Economic Outlook 2010**

*Publisher: OECD*

The OECD Latin American Economic Outlook 2010 provides a fresh analysis of economic trends in the region with a particular focus on the role that international migration and remittances play in shaping the current context.

**Website:** <http://www.oecdbookshop.org/oecd/display.asp?sf1=identifiers&st1=412009031P1&LANG=EN>

## **Report on the State of Food Insecurity in Rural India**

*Publisher: M S Swaminathan Research Foundation and the World Food Programme*

Giving a broad indicative picture of the level of food insecurity in different states and the operation of the nutrition safety net programmes.

**Website:** [http://www.networkideas.org/focus/nov2009/fo23\\_Food.htm](http://www.networkideas.org/focus/nov2009/fo23_Food.htm)

## **OECD Investment Policy Reviews: Vietnam 2009**

*Publisher: OECD*

**Website:** <http://www.oecdbookshop.org/oecd/display.asp?sf1=identifiers&st1=9789264050914>

## **West African Perspectives: Resources for Development**

*Publisher: OECD*

A cross-cutting analysis of the main development challenges in the region and offers suggestions on how to meet them. It provides an overview of West Africa's abundant resources, examining not only economic and natural resources but also human, social and cultural capital. Finally, it presents the perspectives of six prominent West Africans involved in the development of their region.

**Website:** <http://www.oecdbookshop.org/oecd/display.asp?sf1=identifiers&st1=9789264059757>

## **Pedal to the Metal: Structural Reforms to Boost Long-Term Growth in Mexico and Spur Recovery from the Crisis**

*Publisher: OECD*

**Website:** <http://titania.sourceoecd.org/vl=3278130/cl=46/nw=1/rpsv/cgi-bin/wppdf?file=5ks771363kjb.pdf>

## **Understanding the World Trade Collapse**

*Publisher: OECD*

**Website:** <http://titania.sourceoecd.org/vl=3278130/cl=46/nw=1/rpsv/cgi-bin/wppdf?file=5ks8bdvm8g42.pdf>

## **Nollywood**

*by Pieter Hugo, Publisher: Prestel USA*

**Website:** [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)

## **The Venturesome Economy: How Innovation Sustains Prosperity in a More Connected World**

by Amar Bhide, Publisher: Princeton University Press. Website:

Website: [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)

### **Article on how progressive capitalism ends poverty**

Website: <http://www.marketoracle.co.uk/Article15543.html>

### **Africa's Private Sector: What's Wrong with the Business Environment and What to Do About It**

by Vijaya Ramachandran, Alan Gelb and Manju Kedia Shah, Publisher: Center for Global Development. Why has private business yet to take off in much of sub-Saharan Africa?

Website: [www.cgdev.org](http://www.cgdev.org)

### **Designing High-density Cities for Social and Environmental Sustainability**

edited by Edward Ng, Publisher: Earthscan.

Website: <http://www.earthscan.co.uk/?tabid=21001>

### **ICT for Economic Growth: A Dynamic Ecosystem Driving the Global Recovery**

Publisher: World Economic Forum. An analysis of how information and communication technologies (ICT) can serve as fundamental enablers for the global economic recovery. Demonstrating the importance of ICT as a catalyst for growth, the report highlights the industry's complex and interdependent relationships, new collaborative business opportunities and the need for stable policy frameworks to ensure sustained investment, innovation and fair competition. Website:

Website: [http://www.weforum.org/en/media/Latest%20Press%20Releases/PR\\_ICT09](http://www.weforum.org/en/media/Latest%20Press%20Releases/PR_ICT09)

### **Portfolios of the Poor: How the World's Poor Live on \$2 a Day**

by Daryl Collins, Jonathan Morduch, Stuart Rutherford and Orlanda Ruthven, Publisher: Princeton University Press. Financial diaries from households in Bangladesh, India and South Africa.

Website: [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)

### **La ChinAfrique**

by Michel Beuret, Serge Michel and Paolo Woods, Publisher: Grasset and Fasquelle. Portraits of China's involvement in recent years on the continent of Africa.

Website: <http://www.Amazon.fr>

### **Factory Girls: Voices from the Heart of Modern China**

by Leslie Chang, Publisher: Picador.

Website: [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)

### **When China Rules the World**

by Martin Jacques, Publisher: Penguin. Website: [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)

*The End of Certainty: Towards a New Internationalism* by Stephen Chan, Publisher: Zed Books.

Website: [www.zedbooks.co.uk/the\\_end\\_of\\_certainty](http://www.zedbooks.co.uk/the_end_of_certainty)

### **Small Change: Billions of dollars and a Nobel Prize later, it looks like 'microlending' doesn't actually do much to fight poverty**

by Drake Bennett, Publisher: Boston Globe.

Website: <http://www.boston.com/>

### **Money and Mandarin lessons fuel China's African invasion: From Liberia to Ethiopia, Beijing is constructing a 21st century empire thousands of miles from home**

by Daniel Howden.

Website: <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/africa/money-and-mandarin-lessons-fuel-chinas-african-invasion-1802827.html>

## **Upcoming Events**

## January

### **Sustainable Design and Construction 2010**

*Abu Dhabi, UAE (25-26 January 2010)*

Can sustainability be achieved without affecting the bottom line? What makes certain buildings more sustainable than others? Will your project measure up to the Green Building Rules and Regulations? The event brings together key players, decision makers and senior professionals from the industry on 25th through 27th January 2010 to discuss the future of sustainability.

**Website:** <http://fleminggulf.com/conferences/real-estate/sustainabledesign>

### **World Economic Forum Annual Meeting 2010**

*Davos, Switzerland (27-31 January 2010)*

The World Economic Forum Annual Meeting has engaged leaders from all walks of life to shape the global agenda at the start of the year for the last four decades. In response to new priorities, the organizing theme for the 40th World Economic Forum Annual Meeting in 2010 is a call to action, "Improve the State of the World: Rethink, Redesign and Rebuild".

**Website:** <http://www.weforum.org/en/events/AnnualMeeting2010/index.htm>

## February

### **10th Sustainable Development Summit**

*New Delhi, India (5-7 February 2010)*

It would be the first major gathering of leaders drawn from every part of the globe and from every sphere of human endeavour to focus on the new pathways that the world is expected to explore and move along as a consequence of the post Copenhagen conference. DSDDS 2010 promises to be packed with great sessions and dynamic speakers from world over.

**Website:** <http://dsds.teriin.org/2010/index.php>

### **OxFID 2010: Development in Crisis and Conflict**

*Oxford, UK (5-7 February 2010)*

The Oxford Forum for International Development (OxFID) is the UK's keynote student-led conference that brings together practitioners, academics and professionals from across the world to discuss contemporary international development issues. OxFID is a world-class inter-disciplinary forum that attracts over 450 participants from the UK and across Europe.

**Website:** <http://oxfid.weebly.com/>

### **The Future of Cities**

*London, UK (8-9 February 2010)*

Projecting city growth worldwide, our 'The Future of Cities' conference will ask how rapid urban growth can be planned, managed and financed. As cities are being forced to address some of the most dramatic challenges of the 21st Century, including energy and water supply, demographics and climate change, can they lead the way in finding sustainable solutions?

**Website:** <http://www.chathamhouse.org.uk/cities2010/-/?campaign=wbcscd>

### **Clear Profit 9/10: The Annual Forum for Responsible Investors and Investees: CALL FOR PAPERS**

*London, UK (25 February 2010)*

Clear Profit's 4th annual conference is being designed to provide a fresh perspective on key challenges faced by responsible investors and investees. Attendees have included leading figures in responsible investment and corporate responsibility, NGO finance and campaign professionals, and senior policy makers. For the first time the conference will offer multiple streams, allowing delegates the chance to consider a wide range of topics in breakaway round table sessions. As a basis for building the programme, we would like to invite potential speakers to make a session proposal. Just two or three paragraphs will do. If you would like to make such a proposal, register your interest in attending, or find out more about the benefits of sponsoring, please email [event@clear-profit.com](mailto:event@clear-profit.com)

**Website:** <http://www.clear-profit.com/events.html>

### **After Copenhagen: How can business face the climate change challenge?** *London, UK (25 February 2010)*

Attend the Sustainability Summit-After Copenhagen: How can business face the climate change challenge? Hear and be inspired by cutting-edge thinkers on climate change-the visionaries, scientists and policymakers. Be at the launch of an exclusive EIU report "After Copenhagen-Assessing the impact on business".

**Website:** <http://www.economistconferences.co.uk/event/third-annual-sustainability-summit/176>

### **Design Indaba Expo 2010**

*Cape Town, South Africa (26-28 February 2010)*

See the latest on the catwalks in all-day fashion shows; attend short films, talks and product launches; be enticed to buy from more than 260 exhibitors and hobnob with the designers in person. Above all, be awed by the creative spirit of innovative South Africans.

**Website:** <http://www.designindaba.com/expo>

## **March**

### **Clean Technology World Africa 2010**

*Johannesburg, South Africa (15-18 March 2010)*

Clean Technology World Africa 2010 will help you to: Identify new sources of efficient energy supply - Promote new sources of efficient and sustainable energy supply - Source new funding for investment in clean technology.

**Website:** <http://www.terrapinn.com/2010/cleantechza/index.stm>

### **World Urban Forum 5**

*Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (22-26 March 2010)*

In the space of a few short years, the World Urban Forum has turned into the world's premier conference on cities. The Forum was established by the United Nations to examine one of the most pressing problems facing the world today: rapid urbanization and its impact on communities, cities, economies, climate change and policies.

**Website:** <http://mirror.unhabitat.org/categories.asp?catid=584>

### **Globe 2010**

*Vancouver, BC, Canada (24-26 March 2010)*

This series of events is dedicated to bringing together professionals from the environment sector. Every two years, corporate executives, government representatives, environmental senior managers, urban planners and financial executives meet to discuss emerging priorities and opportunities in the business of the environment. GLOBE 2010 will host 12,000 participants, 2,200 conference delegates, 500 exhibitors, 200 speakers and dozens of international delegations from over 70 countries. The Conference will focus on major themes such as Corporate Sustainability, Climate Change and Energy, Finance and Sustainability, Building Better Cities, and the Future of the Automotive Industry.

**Website:** [www.globe2010.com](http://www.globe2010.com)

## **April**

### **IAIA10: Transitioning to the Green Economy**

*Geneva, Switzerland (6-10 April 2010)*

To transition toward green economies, assessments must first demonstrate the types of green investments that best fit local, national, and regional environments. Impact assessments have the power to influence and shape green policy, which will in turn play a major role in addressing the global crises. IAIA10 will focus on the following sectors that have the potential for sustainable green investment.

**Website:** <http://www.iaia.org/iaia10/default.aspx>

## **May**



## **2010 Energy Efficiency Global Forum and Exposition**

*Washington DC, USA (10-12 May 2010)*

Launched in 2007, EE Global is the only international event that focuses solely on energy efficiency from the perspective of all energy end-use sectors (buildings, industrial and transportation) and with coverage of all cross-cutting issues – finance, policy, technology and market transformation. Hosted by the Alliance to Save Energy, EE Global attracts executive-level leaders from all end-use sectors who are committed to putting energy efficiency to work in their businesses, communities and markets.

**Website:** [http://ase.org/section/\\_audience/events1/eeglobal](http://ase.org/section/_audience/events1/eeglobal)

## **Challenge Bibendum – Rio 2010**

*Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (30 May to 2 June 2010)*

Ever since the inaugural edition in 1998, Challenge Bibendum has set out to provide a forum which addresses road transport issues (energy supply and associated geo-political tensions, greenhouse gas emissions, road safety, urban pollution and traffic congestion) at all levels and has worked with a wide range of transport stakeholders to mobilise support to speed up the implementation of all possible solutions for a more sustainable road mobility.

**Website:** [www.challengebibendum.com](http://www.challengebibendum.com)

## **June**

## **Green Business Africa Summit and Expo 2010**

*Nairobi, Kenya (2-4 June 2010)*

The Green Business Africa Summit & Expo will bring to the mainstream issues around sustainability in the business environment as well as green corporate social responsibility (CSR). The Summit will provide business leaders at all levels with insight in developing and enhancing profitable and sustainable business enterprises and practices.

**Website:** [www.greenbusinessafricaexpo.com](http://www.greenbusinessafricaexpo.com)

## **Sustainable Ocean Summit 2010**

*Belfast, UK (15-17 June 2010)*

Leaders from ocean industries dependent on marine space, services and resources will gather to develop cross-sectoral business action on Corporate Ocean Responsibility, as part of the global industry alliance on ocean sustainability catalyzed by the World Ocean Council. Sustainable Ocean Summit participants will include: shipping, oil and gas, fisheries, marine tourism, renewable ocean energy, shipbuilding, marine technology, ports, dredging, seabed mining, seabed cables/pipelines, and others, as well as maritime insurance, finance and legal services.

**Website:** [www.oceancouncil.org](http://www.oceancouncil.org)

## **APPLY NOW! World Habitat Awards 2010/2011:**

The World Habitat Awards were established in 1985 by the Building and Social Housing Foundation as part of its contribution to the United Nations International Year of Shelter for the Homeless. Two awards are given annually to projects from the global North as well as the South that provide practical and innovative solutions to current housing needs and problems. Every year an award of £10,000 is presented to each of the two winners at the annual United Nations global celebration of World Habitat Day. Travel and accommodation costs are also met for one representative of each winning project to attend the awards ceremony.

Transitions Online (TOL) is pleased to announce the launch of the 2009 TOL Photo Competition.

The topic is "20 Years After the Fall of the Iron Curtain", and TOL encourages participants to submit photographs that best capture the changes over the past 20 years in Central and Eastern Europe.

DEADLINE: December 13, 2009.

**Website:** <http://www.worldhabitatawards.org/enter/apply.cfm?lang=00>

**Website:** <http://www.tol.cz/look/TOL/article.tpl?>

[IdLanguage=1&IdPublication=18&NrIssue=1&NrSection=70&NrArticle=20946](http://www.tol.cz/look/TOL/article.tpl?IdLanguage=1&IdPublication=18&NrIssue=1&NrSection=70&NrArticle=20946)

## **African Economic Outlook**

EDUCATING AFRICA: Pan African Awards for Entrepreneurship in Education 2009

Now in its third year, the EDUCATING AFRICA Pan-African Awards for Entrepreneurship in Education continue to seek to identify the very best organizations which have risen to this challenge; to highlight their models, and to reward their achievements. As well as a first prize of \$10,000 and two runners-up prizes of \$5,000, there are up to 50 awards of \$1,000 available for the best entry from every country on the continent.

DEADLINE: December 31, 2009

Website: <http://bit.ly/3rtAQT>

## **Appeal for Help**

MobileActive.org are updating their database of mobile applications used for health, social development, agriculture, advocacy, education, civic media, human rights, and other civil society areas. If you have or are developing a mobile application used in any area of social development, please enter it in the MobileActive database. There is currently no comprehensive database of mobile applications for social development available but they are building it with people's help.

Website: <http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/survey-intro.zgi?p=WEB228VQ3HV6D3>

## **MobileTech4SocialChange**

They have also set up a Wiki with the latest notices about upcoming events around the world.

Website: <http://mobiletech4socialchange.pbworks.com/>

## **Training Opportunities**

### **Ongoing**

#### **Grameen Bank Microcredit Training Programs**

Website: [www.grameen-info.org](http://www.grameen-info.org)

#### **The Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Courses**

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), one of the USA's best known private universities, has made all 1,800 courses in its curriculum (environmental sciences, computer studies, physics...) available free on-line, using an open source system called OpenCourseWare (OCW). Each month, some 1.5 million surfers, most of them based outside the USA, follow the lessons and lectures in PDF, audio and video formats, some are also translated into French and Portuguese. MIT is working with other universities to help them set up their own OCW.

Website: [ocw.mit.edu](http://ocw.mit.edu)

#### **Sustainable Tourism Criteria**

The criteria focus on four areas experts recommend as the most critical aspects of sustainable tourism: maximizing tourism's social and economic benefits to local communities; reducing negative impacts on cultural heritage; reducing harm to local environments; and planning for sustainability. The GSTC Partnership is developing educational materials and technical tools to guide hotels and tour operators in implementing the criteria.

Website: [www.sustainableTourismCriteria.org](http://www.sustainableTourismCriteria.org)

#### **Two Workshops Offered for Development Practitioners**

The community-managed microfinance course deals with providing sustainable financial services for the very poor. Although MFIs are well-established, they have mostly failed to penetrate remote rural areas because the costs are too high and the demand for credit too small. Meanwhile, over the last 15 years, massive, sustainable programmes have emerged that reach this target group at very low cost, based on autonomous, small-scale savings and loan associations. Co-sponsored by the SNHU Community Economic Development Masters Program at the Open University of Tanzania and VSL Associates.

Website: <http://rs6.net>

## Careers

### Development Executive Group Devex Networking Website

Over 90,000 global experts can network and connect and learn about more than 47,000 registered projects.

Website: [www.devex.org](http://www.devex.org)

### New Website Offers Career Advice to Young Africans

Set up by the Commonwealth Secretariat, [Africancareerguidance.com](http://Africancareerguidance.com) is aimed at providing career guidance to African youth and helping them to link with prospective employers. AfricaRecruit is a human resources organisation that provides skills training for African professionals in the Diaspora and on the continent. The website has an inbuilt email subscriber list for all its users and offers a searchable database of career profiles for job seekers and prospective employers. It also offers skills and interest assessments and advice on CV and rÃ©sumÃ© preparation. It provides tips about interviewing techniques, as well as information on internship and volunteer opportunities, and entrepreneurial skills.

Website: [www.africacareerguidance.com](http://www.africacareerguidance.com)

### African Diaspora Skills Database

This database was compiled to provide an overview of qualified African Diaspora professionals with varied areas of expertise and experience. The African Diaspora contributes substantially to the social, economic and political development of Africa, and this database is set up to further mobilize this considerable potential.

Website: [www.diaspora-centre.org](http://www.diaspora-centre.org)

### Aid Workers Network (AWN)

Aid Workers Network (AWN) is an online platform for aid, relief and development workers to ask and answer questions of each other, and to exchange resources and information. AWN is registered in the United Kingdom as a charity. You will find discussions about a range of questions and issues on the AWN forum from aid, relief and development workers all over the world and representing a variety of fields, with new threads or responses posted daily. The forum is a great way to get in contact with other aid and development workers in your geographic area or working in a similar area of work.

Website: [www.aidworkers.net](http://www.aidworkers.net)

### Bizzlounge

Bizzlounge is where people committed to ethical behaviour meet, who want to establish and maintain business contacts in an exclusive and relaxed environment.

Website: [bizzlounge.com](http://bizzlounge.com)

### Business Action for Africa

Business Action for Africa is a network of businesses and business organisations working collectively to accelerate growth and poverty reduction in Africa.

Website: [businessactionforafrica.blogspot.com](http://businessactionforafrica.blogspot.com)

### Business Fights Poverty

Business Fights Poverty is a professional network for all those passionate about fighting world poverty through the power of good business.

Website: [businessfightspovetry.ning.com](http://businessfightspovetry.ning.com)

### Business in Development Network (BiD)

The BiD Network Foundation runs the BiD Challenge to contribute to sustainable economic development by stimulating entrepreneurship in developing countries.

Website: [www.bidnetwork.org](http://www.bidnetwork.org)

### Catalogue of Poverty Networks

UNDP is organizing an online catalogue of Poverty Networks as a means to facilitate access to knowledge and sharing this to a wider audience in 189 countries. Poverty Networks are web-based platforms that provide space for sharing and disseminating development-related information and initiatives. Below you will find information on IPC's collaborating networks, which help foster dialogue between researchers, policymakers, civil society and multilateral organisations.

Website: [www.undp-povertycentre.org](http://www.undp-povertycentre.org)

### Connections for Development (CfD)

CfD is a UK, Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) led, membership based organisation committed to ensuring that UK BME communities, and the organisations they are involved in, are supported in the process of shaping and delivering policy and projects that affect their countries of origin or interest !! collectively our world  
**Website:** [www.cfdnetwork.co.uk](http://www.cfdnetwork.co.uk)

### **Development Crossing**

Development Crossing was set up in 2006 by a small group of friends with diverse backgrounds ranging from business consulting to international development. In a world where the environment, corporate responsibility, and sustainable development are becoming increasingly intertwined, our goal was to create a site where individuals that shared our passion could keep up-to-date with relevant happenings in the world and connect with like-minded individuals. The idea behind Development Crossing is to provide a social network that brings together people from a variety of sectors, countries and professions to discuss corporate social responsibility and sustainable development.  
**Website:** [www.developmentcrossing.com](http://www.developmentcrossing.com)

### **DevelopmentAid.org**

The one-stop-information-shop for the developmental sector, DevelopmentAid.org is a membership organization that brings together information for developmental professionals, NGOs, consultancy firms and donors.  
**Website:** [www.developmentaid.org](http://www.developmentaid.org)

### **dgCommunities on the Development Gateway**

dgCommunities, a free online service by the Development Gateway Foundation is devoted to knowledge-sharing and collaboration for people working to reduce poverty in the developing world.  
**Website:** [topics.developmentgateway.org](http://topics.developmentgateway.org)

### **Diaspora African Forum**

This Forum exists "to invite and encourage the full participation of Africans in the Diaspora in the building of the African Union, in its capacity as an important part of the Continent". We will provide the vital linkage for Diaspora Africans to become involved in Africa's development as well as reap the fruits of African unity.  
**Website:** [www.diasporafricanforum.org](http://www.diasporafricanforum.org)

### **Eldis Communities**

Eldis aims to share the best in development, policy, practice and research. The Eldis Community is a free on-line community where you can meet others involved in international development and discuss the issues that are important to you.  
**Website:** [community.eldis.org](http://community.eldis.org)

### **Enterprise Development Exchange**

The Enterprise Development Exchange links related communities of practice to advance sustainable poverty eradication. It is facilitated by The SEEP Network through the Value Initiative.  
**Website:** [edexchange.seepnetwork.org](http://edexchange.seepnetwork.org)

### **Food Security and Nutrition (FSN) Forum**

The FSN Forum is a global community of FSN practitioners. It bridges the knowledge divide among the different communities involved in FSN policies and strategies - such as academics, researchers and development practitioners - to improve cooperation and impacts; members in many countries across the world - s five continents.  
**Website:** <http://km.fao.org/fsn/>

### **Global Development Matters**

Global Development Matters is designed to engage U.S. citizens and leaders in examining how rich world policies affect global poverty reduction. There is an Election '08 blog.  
**Website:** [www.globaldevelopmentmatters.org](http://www.globaldevelopmentmatters.org)

### **GTZ-Communities Sustainable Economic Development**

The GTZ-Communities Sustainable Economic Development are open to all practitioners, counterparts, research institutions, donors and interested consultants worldwide facilitating an inter agency exchange of experiences and best practices. This weekly updated website provides you with recent news and lessons learned from GTZ as

well as from other development agencies and research institutions in the field of economic development. Its core is a comprehensive database. Participation in this open community is free of charge. However, registration is necessary.

**Website:** [Africa](#) | [Middle East and North Africa](#) | [Asia](#)

### **LED knowledge**

This website is an online space for sharing the experiences and resources of people and organizations supporting local economic development processes at the local level. LED Knowledge is the result of a joint effort of the ILO-LED programme team based in Geneva, and the ILO training arm, the International Training Centre, based in Turin, Italy.

**Website:** [www.ledknowledge.org](http://www.ledknowledge.org)

### **Network of Networks Impact Evaluation Initiative (Nonie)**

Nonie is a network of networks for impact evaluation comprised of the DAC Evaluation Network, The United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG), the Evaluation Cooperation Group (ECG), and a fourth network drawn from the regional evaluation associations. Its purpose is to foster a program of impact evaluation activities based on a common understanding of the meaning of impact evaluation and approaches to conducting impact evaluation.

**Website:** [www.worldbank.org/ieg/nonie/](http://www.worldbank.org/ieg/nonie/)

### **TakingITGlobal.org**

TakingITGlobal.org is an online community that connects youth to find inspiration, access information, get involved, and take action in their local and global communities.

**Website:** [profiles.takingitglobal.org](http://profiles.takingitglobal.org)

### **XING Group Microfinance Industry**

In this new XING Group, microfinance professionals from all over the globe link and discuss topics of interest. Use this forum to discuss financial technology, find employment, identify training opportunities and events, and share knowledge resources with fellow members of the microfinance industry. XING is an online networking tool to manage all personal contacts and to find interesting new business contacts. It's amazing how quickly it facilitates contact with key people.

**Website:** [www.xing.com/](http://www.xing.com/)

### **AfDevinfo - African Development Information Service**

AfDevinfo tracks the mechanics of political and economic development across Sub Saharan Africa. They draw together a diverse range of publicly available data and present it as an accessible and ever expanding online database.

**Website:** [www.afdevinfo.com](http://www.afdevinfo.com)

### **Growing Inclusive Markets (GIM)**

The Growing Inclusive Markets Initiative has created a set of data, information and analytical products that will increase understanding of the markets of the poor, including existing opportunities and challenges.

**Website:** [www.growinginclusivemarkets.org](http://www.growinginclusivemarkets.org)

## **Fellowship Opportunities**

### **Africa Entrepreneurship Platform**

This ground breaking initiative is created as a forum to showcase innovative ideas and businesses from Africa that have the ability to scale internationally driving job creation and sustainable economic development between Africa and the Americas.

**Website:** [www.sacca.biz](http://www.sacca.biz)

### **Piramal Foundation in India**

Has established a US \$25,000 prize for ideas that help advance full access to effective public health care in India. The Piramal Prize is a \$25,000 Social Entrepreneurship Competition focused on democratizing health care in India that seeks to encourage and support bold entrepreneurial ideas which can profoundly impact access to higher standards of health for India's rural and marginalized urban communities. The award recognizes high-impact, scalable business models and innovative solutions that directly or indirectly address India's health-care crisis.

**Website:** [www.piramalprize.org/](http://www.piramalprize.org/)



### **The Pioneers of Prosperity Grant and Award**

This competition is a partnership between the OTF Group and the John F. Templeton Foundation of the United States, and promotes companies in East Africa by identifying local role models that act as examples of sustainable businesses in their country/region. It is open to businesses from Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Burundi and Rwanda.

**Website:** [pioneersofprosperity.org](http://pioneersofprosperity.org)

### **African Writers Fund**

Together with the Ford Foundation, the Fund supports the work of independent creative writers living on the continent. The Fund recognizes the vital role that poets and novelists play in Africa by anticipating and reflecting the cultural, economic and political forces that continuously shape and reshape societies.

**Website:** [www.trustafrica.org](http://www.trustafrica.org)

### **Joint NAM S&T Centre - ICCS Fellowship Programme**

Centre for Science and Technology of the Non-Aligned and Other Developing Countries (NAM S&T Centre) and International Center for Chemical Sciences (ICCS), (H.E.J. Research Institute of Chemistry and Dr. Panjwani Center for Molecular Medicine and Drug Research), University of Karachi, Karachi, Pakistan.

**Email:** [namstct@vsnl.com](mailto:namstct@vsnl.com)

**Website:** [www.scidev.net](http://www.scidev.net)

### **Development Executive Group Devex Networking Website**

Over 90,000 global experts can network and connect and learn about more than 47,000 registered projects.

**Website:** [www.devex.org](http://www.devex.org)

### **Oxford Said Business School Youth Business Development Competition**

Open to youth between 16 and 21 across the world, the competition is run by students at Oxford University to promote social enterprise. A prize fund of Â£2,000 in seed capital is up for grabs. It calls itself the ↑ world↓'s first global youth development competition↓.

**Website:** [More Information](#)

### **US\$250,000 for Best Lab Design**

AMD and Architecture for Humanity have announced a prize of \$250,000 for the best design for a computer lab that can be adapted and implemented in third-world countries.

**Website:** [www.openarchitecturenetwork.org](http://www.openarchitecturenetwork.org)

### **PhD Plant Breeding Scholarships at the University of Ghana**

The [University of Ghana](#) has been awarded a project support grant by the [Alliance for a Green Revolution](#) in Africa (a joint venture between the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Rockefeller Foundation, for the establishment of a West African Centre for Crop Improvement (WACCI). This is available to scientists working at NARIs, universities and international centres in West Africa. Women scientists are especially encouraged to apply for a fellowship under this programme.

**Website:** [www.acci.org.za](http://www.acci.org.za)

### **Institute of Social Studies in The Hague**

A collaboration between 25 international think tanks in international development, [www.focuss.info](http://www.focuss.info) is a search engine for indexing and social book marking online resources in international development.

**Website:** <http://focuss.info/>

### **Genesis: India↓'s Premier Social Entrepreneurship Competition**

A social entrepreneurship competition aiming to bring together social entrepreneurs, students, NGOs, innovators, incubators, corporations and financiers and encourage them to come up with innovative ideas which are socially relevant and feasible.

**Website:** <http://genesis.iitm.ac.in>

### **Echoing Green: Social Entrepreneurs Fund**

They are looking for social entrepreneurs developing new solutions to social problems. They are accepting applications for their 2008 fellowships (two-year funding of up to US \$90,000 for 20 entrepreneurs).

**Website:** [www.echoinggreen.org](http://www.echoinggreen.org)

## Funding

### UNESCO: International Centre for South-South Co-operation in Science, Technology and Innovation

The International Centre for South-South Co-operation in Science, Technology and Innovation was inaugurated in Kuala Lumpur in May 2008. The centre functions under the auspices of UNESCO. It facilitates the integration of a developmental approach into national science and technology and innovation policies, and provides policy advice. In parallel to organizing capacity-building and the exchange of experience and best practices, the centre conducts research and tackles specific problems in science, technology and innovation policy-making in developing countries.

Website: [www.unesco.org](http://www.unesco.org)

### Funding - Google.org

While SMEs in rich countries represent half of GDP, they are largely absent from the formal economies of developing countries. Today, there are trillions of investment dollars chasing returns !! and SMEs are a potentially high impact, high return investment. However, only a trickle of this capital currently reaches SMEs in developing countries. Our goal is to increase this flow.

Website: [www.google.org](http://www.google.org)

### Challenge InnoCentive

A challenge to the world's inventors to find solutions to real scientific and technological problems affecting the poor and vulnerable.

Website: <http://www.innocentive.com>

### Global Social Benefit Incubator: A US \$20,000 Bottom of the Pyramid Scholarship

Offered by Santa Clara University's Global Social Benefit Incubator, it selects 15 to 20 enterprises from developing countries and provides an eight-month mentoring process. This ends with a 10-day process in Santa Clara, where entrepreneurs work with their mentors.

Website: <http://www.socialedge.org>

## Job Opportunities

- [Africa Recruit Job Compendium](#)
- [Africa Union](#)
- [CARE](#)
- [Christian Children's Fund](#)
- [ECOWAS](#)
- [International Crisis Group](#)
- [International Medical Corps](#)
- [International Rescue Committee](#)
- [Internews](#)
- [IREX](#)
- [Organization for International Migration](#)
- [Oxfam](#)
- [Relief Web Job Compendium \(UN OCHA\) \(1\)](#)
- [Relief Web Job Compendium \(UN OCHA\) \(2\)](#)
- [Save the Children](#)
- [The Development Executive Group job compendium](#)
- [Trust Africa](#)
- [UN Jobs](#)
- [UNDP](#)
- [UNESCO](#)
- [UNICEF](#)
- [World Bank](#)
- [World Wildlife Fund \(Cameroon\)](#)



Please feel free to send your comments, feedback and/or suggestions to Cosmas Gitta [[cosmas.gitta@undp.org](mailto:cosmas.gitta@undp.org)] Chief, Division for Policy, Special Unit for South-South Cooperation